



Argos Hill Windmill Trust Limited

Embargoed until 00.01hours on 30th January 2014

Argos Hill Windmill Trust wins Heritage Lottery Fund support

Argos Hill Windmill Trust, based near Mayfield in East Sussex, has been awarded a grant of £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), it was announced today. Led by volunteers from the local community, the project will restore a Grade II*-listed post mill so that it can be removed from the English Heritage “Heritage at Risk” register.

The project is expected to take two years to complete, and once restored the mill will be opened to the public on a regular basis as a visitor attraction. The iconic local landmark will once again be visible from miles around and the sweeps will be seen turning for the first time in over 80 years.

The restoration work will be split between professional millwrights and local volunteers, so the project will provide many learning opportunities for those who wish to get involved. School and community groups will also benefit from the provision of educational materials including a display of historical milling artefacts at the mill, and an outreach programme of talks.

There are only 50 post mills remaining in the UK, and Argos Hill is regarded as one of the most complete and important of those remaining today. Dating from 1835, the mill has many unique features and retains nearly all of its original machinery, but sadly has been without sweeps since 1999 and is currently in a very poor condition.

Commenting on the award, Geoff Daughtrey, chairman of Argos Hill Windmill Trust said: “We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and look forward to restoring the mill, which is an outstanding example of our industrial heritage, to its former glory”

Stuart McLeod, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund South East, said:

“Not only will today’s HLF grant restore and rejuvenate this historic listed Mill in the heart of East Sussex but it will also enable full public access for the first time in over 10 years. An exciting range of community activities means that more people than ever will have the chance to get involved with their local heritage – all helping to ensure a sustainable long-term future for the site.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

About Argos Hill Windmill Trust

Argos Hill Windmill Trust was formed in 2010 with the aim of restoring Argos Hill Windmill, safeguarding it for future generations and promoting interest in the mill in the local community. The Trust has leased the mill from Wealden District Council for 99 years and has secured a 5-year funding agreement with them.

Initial funding from Wealden, combined with local fundraising and a number of small grants has enabled the Trust to complete emergency on-site work to make the building safe, including removing the badly decayed steps, tailpole and fantail, and installing a temporary steel structure to support the mill.

The Trust works closely with, and is supported by, the Friends of Argos Hill Windmill - a local community group which was set up in 1999. www.argoshillwindmill.org.uk

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported over 36,000 projects with more than £5.9bn across the UK. www.hlf.org.uk.

For further information, images and interviews, please contact Geoff Daughtrey, chairman of Argos Hill Windmill Trust: 01892 515022 / info@argoshillwindmill.org.uk



The mill c1924 – in full working order



The mill today – shrouded in scaffolding



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